

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A method of spell checking a document being processed by a word processing program, said method comprising:
  - (a) determining from a content of said document a group of words that includes words actually occurring in said document;
  - (b) reporting a misspelled word to a user; and
  - (c) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from said group of words.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said content includes the text and any title, subject, headings or contents that are included in said document.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein step (a) derives said group of actually occurring words from said content based on location within said document and frequency of occurrence therein.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:
  - (e) determining words that are probably related to said actually occurring words and including said probably related words in said group of words.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein step (e) uses one or more of the processes selected from the group of latent semantic indexing, synonym selection, thesaurus selection.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein said selected words appear first in said replacement list.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising presenting to the user another list of the user's misspelled words.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein said other list includes words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.
9. A method of spell checking a document being processed by a word processing program, said method comprising:
  - (a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;
  - (b) determining a group of one or more words that each include a substitute letter for a letter contained in the misspelled word, wherein a keyboard key of the substitute letter is a nearby keyboard key of the letter contained in said misspelled word; and
  - (c) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from said group of words.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein step (b) determines which words to include in said group of words based on distance between the keyboard keys of the respective substitute letters and the respective keyboard keys of the letters contained in the misspelled word.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the order of a first one and a second one of said selected words in said replacement list is determined by the distance of said first and second selected words that is smaller.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said selected words are chosen based on a history the user's past letter substitutions.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said history includes the user's letter swaps, and wherein the replacement list includes alternative words based on said history of letter swaps.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising:

(d) monitoring the user's mistypes that include letter swaps and incorporating said mistypes to said history, and wherein said history includes words that contain letter substitutions or letter swaps that are supplied by the user.

15. The method of claim 9, further comprising presenting to the user another list of the user's misspelled words.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said other list includes words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.

17. A method of spell checking a document being processed by a word processing program, said method comprising:

(a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;

(b) determining a first group of one or more words that each include a substitute letter for a letter contained in the misspelled word, wherein a keyboard key of the substitute letter is a nearby keyboard key of the letter contained in said misspelled word;

(c) determining from a content of said document a second group of one or more words that includes words actually occurring in said document; and

(d) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from either or both of said first and second groups of words.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said list of replacement words is ordered with said selected words of the first group appearing before any selected words of the second group.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein steps (b) and (c) determine said first and second groups by giving spatial preference to any words that are similar to the misspelled word and that occur in a same area of the document in which the misspelled word occurs.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said area in order of preference is a sentence and then a paragraph.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said area in order of preference further includes after paragraph a document portion that is visible to the user on a display screen.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein said area in order of preference further includes a chapter or section and then the entire document.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein steps (b) and (c) further give spatial preference to additional documents that are currently open, were open within a predetermined time of opening said document, were most recently opened by the user, or were opened by other users.

24. A method of spell checking a document being processed by a word processing program, said method comprising:

- (a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;
- (b) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word; and
- (c) presenting to the user another list of replacement words that contains words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising highlighting the letter or letters of a replacement word in either said list or said other list that correct letters of words that the user has mistyped in the past.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein said highlighting is a colorization.

27. A computer readable medium that includes computer executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:

- (a) determining from a content of said document a group of words that includes words actually occurring in said document;
- (b) reporting a misspelled word to a user; and
- (c) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from said group of words.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein said content includes the text and any title, subject or headings that are included in said document.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein step (a) derives said group of actually occurring words from said content based on location within said document and frequency of occurrence therein.

30. The computer readable medium of claim 29 including further computer readable instructions for performing the step of (e) determining words that are probably related to said actually occurring words and including said probably related words in said group of words.

31. The computer readable medium of claim 30, wherein step (e) uses one or more of the processes selected from the group of latent semantic indexing, synonym selection, thesaurus selection.

32. The computer readable medium of claim 31, wherein said selected words appear first in said replacement list.

33. The computer readable medium of claim 27, further comprising presenting to the user another list of the user's misspelled words.

34. The computer readable medium of claim 33, wherein said other list includes words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.

35. A computer readable medium that includes computer executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:

(a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;

(b) determining a group of one or more words that each include a substitute letter for a letter contained in the misspelled word, wherein a keyboard key of the substitute letter is a nearby keyboard key of the letter contained in said misspelled word; and

(c) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from said group of words.

36. The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein step (b) determines which words to include in said group of words based on distance between the keyboard keys of the respective substitute letters and the respective keyboard keys of the letters contained in the misspelled word.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein the order of a first one and a second one of said selected words in said replacement list is determined by the distance of said first and second selected words that is smaller.

38. The computer readable medium of claim 36, wherein said selected words are chosen based on a history the user's past letter substitutions.

39. The computer readable medium of claim 38, wherein said history includes the user's letter swaps, and wherein the replacement list includes alternative words based on said history of letter swaps.

40. The computer readable medium of claim 39 including further executable instructions for performing the step of (d) monitoring the user's mistypes that include letter swaps and incorporating said mistypes to said history, and wherein said history includes words that contain letter substitutions or letter swaps that are supplied by the user.

41. The computer readable medium of claim 35, further comprising presenting to the user another list of the user's misspelled words.

42. The computer readable medium of claim 41, wherein said other list includes words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.

43. A computer readable medium that includes executable instructions for performing steps, comprising:

(a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;

(b) determining a first group of one or more words that each include a substitute letter for a letter contained in the misspelled word, wherein a keyboard key of the substitute letter is a nearby keyboard key of the letter contained in said misspelled word;

(c) determining from a content of said document a second group of one or more words that includes words actually occurring in said document; and

(d) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word, said list including one or more words selected from either or both of said first and second groups of words.

44. The computer readable medium of claim 43, wherein said list of replacement words is ordered with said selected words of the first group appearing before any selected words of the second group.

45. The computer readable medium of claim 44, wherein steps (b) and (c) determine said first and second groups by giving spatial preference to any words



that are similar to the misspelled word and that occur in a same area of the document in which the misspelled word occurs.

46. The computer readable medium of claim 45, wherein said area in order of preference is a sentence and then a paragraph.

47. The computer readable medium of claim 46, wherein said area in order of preference further includes after paragraph a document portion that is visible to the user on a display screen.

48. The computer readable medium of claim 47, wherein said area in order of preference further includes a chapter or section and then the entire document.

49. The computer readable medium of claim 45, wherein steps (b) and (c) further give spatial preference to additional documents that are currently open, were open within a predetermined time of opening said document, were most recently opened by the user, or were opened by other users.

50. A computer readable medium that includes computer executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

(a) reporting a misspelled word to a user;

(b) presenting to the user a list of replacement words that have spellings similar to said misspelled word; and

(c) presenting to the user another list of replacement words that contains words that the user either most frequently misspells or has most recently misspelled.

51. The computer readable medium of claim 50, further comprising highlighting the letter or letters of a replacement word in either said list or said other list that correct letters of words that the user has mistyped in the past.
52. The computer readable medium of claim 51, wherein said highlighting is a colorization.